

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SNAKE FROM
CLARION ISLAND, WEST COAST OF MEXICO.

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When exploring the islands off and around Lower California in the spring of 1897, Mr. A. W. Anthony also visited Clarion Island, the most westerly of the Revilla Gigedo group, a small island situated about 400 miles southwest from Cape St. Lucas, Lower California. In addition to the *Uta* described from the same locality he collected quite a series of a new species of *Bascanion*, which I take pleasure in naming in honor of its discoverer.

BASCANION ANTHONYI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Scales in 17 rows; ventrals, 186–204; caudals, 97–112; frontal, at a line between centers of eyes, much narrower than supraocular; supralabials 8, fourth and fifth entering eye; a subocular; interparietal suture much shorter than distance from tip of snout to frontal; color above walnut brown, more or less uniform, and with scattered black spots.

Type.—Cat. No. 24390, U.S.N.M., Clarion Island. A. W. Anthony, collector.

Habitat.—Clarion Island, Revilla Gigedo group, west coast of Mexico.

Description of type specimen.—*Adult male:* Snout rather prominent, the tip extending considerably beyond the lower mandible; part of rostral visible above nearly equals the length of internasal suture, which is about one-half the length of the interprefrontal suture; frontal separated from preoculars, long and narrow, its greatest width anteriorly equaling that of the supraoculars; its width, at a line between the centers of the eyes much narrower than the width of the supraoculars at the same line; its length equals its distance from the tip of snout and is longer than parietals; supraoculars large, broadly in

contact with prefrontals; parietals very short, their length less than frontal and less than twice the length of the interprefrontal suture; interparietal suture much shorter than distance from tip of snout to frontal, equaling interprefrontal and internasal sutures together; loreal rather large, longer than high; one preocular, narrow below and with a very prominent canthal ridge above; a rather large subpreocular; two postoculars; temporals, 2-2-2; eye very large, its horizontal diameter equaling its distance from the nostril, and two-thirds the length of the frontal; 8 supralabials, seventh and eighth subequal and largest, fourth and fifth entering eye; 7 lower labials, four in contact with anterior pair of chin-shields; posterior pair of chin-shields about the same length as anterior pair but considerably narrower; scales in 17 rows, smooth, with two apical pits; ventrals obtusely angulate laterally, 194; anal divided; subcaudals 112. Color above walnut brown, deepest toward the tip of each scale, and with blackish brown narrow linear spots, never longer than a scale, sparsely and irregularly scattered over the back and sides; head more uniformly pale walnut brown with a few irregularly scattered blackish dots, and a few obscure dusky marblings on lores and labials; under side pale, sprinkled irregularly with slate-colored dotlets, which toward the head become more pronounced and collected as two parallel longitudinal zones; chin and throat more definitely but irregularly marked with larger spots of the same color.

Dimensions.—Total length, 1,450 mm.; tail, 360 mm.

Variation.—In a much younger specimen, Cat. No. 24383, U.S.N.M., about 820 mm. in length, the coloration above is more grayish and entirely uniform, without the blackish spots; the under side is also uniform pale, with no markings except a few dusky dots on the neck; the sides of the head are brownish like the top, with the indication of a dusky longitudinal band on the upper half of the supralabials; the lower part of the latter as well as throat yellowish; preoculars and postoculars, together with a band from the former to the nostril, likewise yellowish. In this specimen the parietals are slightly larger in proportion and the frontal wider.

In some of the other specimens, intermediate in size between the two specimens mentioned, the dark markings on the chin, throat, and fore neck are very pronounced and the dusky mottlings on the rest of the underside very dense, only leaving a pale line on the angle of the belly, while in others they are condensed into two fairly distinct parallel longitudinal bands with a pale zoné down the middle of the body.

Remarks.—In general appearance this species presents closer analogy to younger specimens of the eastern typical form of *Bascanion flagellum* than to *B. flagellum frenatum*, though showing indications of the peculiar facial pattern of the latter. It is, however, well differentiated

by the very short parietals, large prefrontals, long rostral as seen from below, and larger eyes.

List of Specimens of Bascanion anthongi.

U. S. N. M. No.	Sex and age.	Locality.	From whom re- ceived.	Ventrals.	Caudals.	Remarks.
24382	Male adult...	Clarion Island	A. W. Anthony	186	-----	Type.
24383	Young .....	.....do.....	.....do.....	204	107
24384	Male adult...	.....do.....	.....do.....	192	-----
24385	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	189	97
24386	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	187	105
24387	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	193	98
24388	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	196	109
24389	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	191	-----
24390	Male adult	.....do.....	.....do.....	194	112
24391	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	194	-----
24392	Male adult	.....do.....	.....do.....	187	-----
24393	Femaleadult	.....do.....	.....do.....	190	-----
24394	Male adult...	.....do.....	.....do.....	189	-----